

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01
MCT-01 DHA-02 /095 W
-----091148Z 011708 /14

R 090926Z APR 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4380
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS ARAFAT
VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: BAGHDAD 578

1. TARIQ AL-SHAAB, MOUTHPIECE OF IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY,
FEATURES REPORT ON ARAFAT VISIT TO SOVIET UNION AS
LEAD ARTICLE IN ITS ISSUE OF APRIL 7. HEADLINED AS
"ARAFAT VALUES POSITIONS OF SOVIET UNION ON PALESTINIAN
ISSUE" ARTICLE, DRAWING HEAVILY ON TASS, IS IMPLIED
REBUTTAL TO BAATH PARTY CRITICISM OF SOVIET MIDDLE
EAST POLICY (REFTEL). PROMINENT COVERAGE OF ARAFAT
VISIT IS ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT SINCE OTHER BAGHDAD
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PAPERS ARE DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ANNIVERSARY OF
BAATH PARTY. NON-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS HAVE VIRTUALLY
IGNORED ARAFAT VISIT AND DO NOT REPORT HIS PRAISE OF
SOVIET POSITION.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAQ HAS ESTABLISHED
ITS DISTINCT APPROACH TO SOVIET POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST

BY HIGHLIGHTING STATEMENTS BY ARAFAT AND GROMYKO
IN MOSCOW. ARAFAT HAS STILL ESCAPED DIRECT CRITICISM
HERE FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. CPI
APPROACH IS SUBTLE IN THAT PARTY CONTINUES TO AVOID
DIRECT CLASH WITH REGIME OVER ANTI-SOVIET COMMENTARY
IN IRAQI PRESS. NONETHELESS, BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP
IS LIKELY TO TAKE DIM VIEW OF JUDGMENT BY TARIQ AL-SHAAB
EDITORIAL STAFF ON WHAT NEWS TO EMPHASIZE, WITHIN
FRAMEWORK OF TIGHT NEWS MANAGEMENT BY GOI.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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